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A Local Drink Beats Global Competition

For many decades, strong American and multinational food brands have penetrated markets in the South. This is a global business success story for those companies, but the downside has been the marginalizing of local alternatives. This not only reduces wealth-creating opportunities for local entrepreneurs, but also leads to products like sugary soda pops (<http://tinyurl.com/yzwal98>) pushing aside healthier, local alternatives like tea.

But one company in Indonesia has been pioneering a healthy local drinks empire while also seeing off aggressive foreign rivals. Teh Botol Sosro, a tea drink in Indonesia bottled by family-owned business Sosro, was not only the first bottled tea brand in the country, but also in the world, it claims. The company started bottling the jasmine-flavoured black tea drink in the 1970s.

The Indonesian company has shown that it is possible for local flavours to beat powerful international brands like Coca Cola in the battle for drinkers' palates. While Coca Cola has tried to sell many bottled tea drinks in the Indonesian market, they have not been able to push aside the local product, The Teh Botol Sosro. Brewed by the Sinar Sosro company, it has captured 70 percent of the non-carbonated drinks market.

It is a drink of cool, black, sweetened tea with a hint of jasmine. Invented by the Indonesian family of Sosrodjojos, Sosro (<http://www.sosro.com/>) was founded in central Java in the 1940s.

Culturally, Indonesians have either coffee or tea with their meals. The brand's marketing slogan plays on this: "Whatever you eat, you drink Teh Sosro."

The company has aggressively fought off competition not only from local rivals, but also from Coca Cola's Frestea brand and Pepsi Cola's Tekita. The company stayed sharp in its business strategy, never letting a rival product take hold. Just as a rival would introduce a new product, Sosro would reply with a new drink attuned to Indonesian tastes. This ability to not be complacent about the company's success, and to use its knowledge of local tastes to always outsmart foreign competition, has kept the company where it is today.

Sosro pioneered bottled drinking tea with its launch in 1970 and started with a dried tea only distributed in Central Java.

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The journey to cold, bottled tea is an amusing one. The company first wanted to promote its tea in Jakarta, the capital, by having public tastings. But by brewing the tea on the spot, the too-hot tea took too long to drink for impatient Jakartans. The solution was to not brew the tea on the spot, but instead to brew it off-site and deliver to markets in big pans on trucks. But the bad roads made this a bit of a mistake as well: the tea would spill on the journey.

The 'aha' moment came when the idea arose to store the brewed tea in bottles. The bottles were eye-catching and have evolved in design over the years.

The drink now comes in various packages, from a returnable glass bottle (220 ml) to a Tetra Pak (1 litre, 250 ml, and 200 ml) and a 230 ml pouch.

The Botal Sosro (<http://www.sosro.com/teh-botal-sosro.php>) is not the company's only product: it also brews Fruit Tea, The Botal Kotak and S-Tee. The economic benefits of these popular brands stay local, as Sosro gets the tea from PT Gunung Slamet, which operates three tea estates covering 1,587 hectares in Indonesia.

Links

- Just Food is a web portal packed with the latest news on the global food industry and packed with events and special briefings to fill entrepreneurs in on the difficult issues and constantly shifting market demands.
Website: www.just-food.com
- Brandchannel: The world's only online exchange about branding, packed with resources, debates and contacts to help businesses intelligently build their brand.
Website: www.brandchannel.com
- Small businesses looking to develop their brand can find plenty of free advice and resources here.
Website: www.brandingstrategyinsider.com
- Growing Inclusive Markets, a web portal from UNDP packed with case studies, heat maps and strategies on how to use markets to help the poor.
Website: www.growinginclusivemarkets.org
- Tea Genius: A website from Taiwan packed with information on tea, its health benefits and rituals.
Website: <http://www.teagenius.com/>
Website: <http://www.teagenius.com/>

Indonesian Middle Class Recycle Wealth Back into Domestic Economy

The global downturn and economic crisis is now into its third year. Economic growth has dropped across the South, as the knock-on effect of shrinking credit and slowing global markets took its toll.

One solution to re-starting growth and building up domestic industries is to target local products at the existing middle class, which in turn grows the middle class by creating better paying jobs.

Globally, 2009 saw 70 million people join the emerging-market middle class, with incomes between \$6,000 and \$30,000. And 1 billion people are expected to join the middle class by 2020. It has been called "the story of the decade," by Goldman Sachs's chief economist Jim O'Neill, who forecasts their global spending power will outstrip the developed world in two decades.

Indonesia's middle class first began to grow in the 1980s. But rising prosperity took a heavy blow with the Asian economic crisis of the late 1990s, when the currency was devalued, pitching millions of people back into poverty.

Even so, Indonesia's middle class is estimated to be between 35 and 40 million people (out of a population of 230 million) and they pay out roughly US \$750-1000 on monthly household spending.

They are a mix of people, including professionals in management, banking, accounts, specialized law, bio-technology, engineering and other areas – all skills needed to run the market economy.

Like members of the middle class around the world, increasingly affluent Indonesians forge their identity through consumerism and lifestyle. This desire for goods and services represents a huge business opportunity. Often, this is captured by large multinational companies with long experience of selling branded goods and services.

Indonesia, however, is having great success growing its middle class despite the global economic downturn by building up the domestic market. Millie Stephanie, the director of Indonesia Tatler Magazine, told the BBC that two-thirds of the country's economy runs on domestic consumption.

New middle class housing is springing up around the capital Jakarta. Home ownership for many, unthinkable a decade ago, is now possible as banks make more loans possible. This in turn feeds into more consumption.

By turning to local products – something the Indonesian government is encouraging by increasing its own spending on local goods and services in 2010 by US \$21.32 billion, according to Industry Minister MS Hidayat – a cycle is created where middle class wealth creates middle class jobs in local companies.

The department store chain of Matahari (<http://www.matahari.co.id/>) – the largest local department store in Indonesia – is a good example. Eighty percent of the goods it sells are made in Indonesia. The store targets the middle class with products like jeans that Indonesians can afford. And this strategy has helped Indonesia to get through the downturn.

According to Widia Augustinia, who runs the PT Inti Garmino Persada jeans factory, the company was able to triple production despite the downturn.

"In the last few years we kept getting calls from our clients saying they had sold all our jeans and they wanted more, so we had to expand our business and had to hire more people," she told the BBC.

One of the factory's workers, 37-year-old Miriam, has seen her salary increase annually over the last four years while she has worked in the factory. The increasing wealth means she can now educate her children and buy a TV and a motorcycle.

This matters when half the population are living on less than two dollars a day. This recycling of middle class wealth into the Indonesian economy is making more workers become part of the emerging middle class with the jobs created.

In Africa, the Aureos Advisers (<http://www.aureos.com/>) private equity firm specializes in investing in African small and medium size enterprises, and is having great success with it despite the downturn. Its niche is finding and investing in companies that sell quality local products.

Run by Sri Lankan-born Sev Vettivetpillai, it raised US \$150 million in 2009 to invest in Africa, much of it from pension funds.

"That's a large sum of money in a market where raising capital is tough," he told The Guardian newspaper.

Leverage was a game when cheap debt was around," he says of the old private equity market that went up in flames in 2008. "Today a large chunk of growth is in emerging markets and we have proved you can invest responsibly in these markets and achieve attractive returns while paying attention to building sustainable businesses."

And the faith in small and medium-sized African businesses has been paying off despite the economic turmoil: since most of the companies have little debt, they have not suffered in the downturn. And since many do not export much to Europe or the United States, they have not suffered from the consumer slump.

"When markets crashed 60 percent, good management teams were making sure they had cash, not much debt," said Vettivetpillai. "Most banks don't lend to these SMEs. And that has saved a number of those businesses. So we had an upward lift in earning growth in 2008 when many people showed a drop."

Links

- A paper from the University of Hawaii by Mohammad Hasan Ansori on Indonesia's middle class.
Website: <http://tinyurl.com/ylq7nf6>
- The red dot logo stands for belonging to the best in design and business. The red dot is an internationally recognised quality label for excellent design that is aimed at all those who would like to improve their business activities with the help of design.
Website: Website: <http://www.red-dot.de/>
- A video on designing for the middle class in emerging markets.
Website: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-JLO1RuQIPw&feature=related>
- Product design strategies for emerging markets.
Website: <http://www.appliancemagazine.com/editorial.php?article=1633&zone=1&first=1>

Favela Fashion Brings Women Work

A highly successful cooperative of women in Brazil has shown that it is possible for outsiders to make it in the fast-paced world of fashion. Despite being based in one of Rio de Janeiro's slums, or favelas (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Favela>), the women have developed a reputation for high-quality merchandise and even put on fashion shows.

Fashion earns big money around the world: The global clothing industry is estimated to be worth more than US \$900 billion a year. But fashion also has a reputation for relying on sweat shops, poor pay and poor working conditions. The poor are the most at risk of exploitation in the industry - upwards of 90 percent of sweatshop workers are women (www.feminist.org).

Yet the COOPA-ROCA cooperative (www.coopa-roca.org.br/en/index_en.html) – or Rocinha Seamstress and Craftwork Co-operative Ltd - has pioneered a way to involve poor women in the business, build their skills while creating high-quality products, and be flexible enough to make time for their families' needs. It particularly helps single mothers.

The cooperative was founded by Maria Teresa Leal in Rocinha – the largest favela in Rio, home to over 180,000 people. After visiting her housekeeper's home in the favela, Leal was impressed by the sewing skills of the women but found they weren't making any money from their work. She decided to found the cooperative in 1981 and start making quilts and pillows. By the early 1990s, the cooperative had attracted the attention of Rio's fashion scene. And in 1994, it jumped into making clothes for the fashion catwalks. Fashion designers in turn taught the women advanced production skills and about fashion trends.

Today, the coop has established a hard-won reputation for quality and sells its clothes to the wealthy elite of Rio. Its success has led to contracts with major clothing stores, including Europe's C&A.

"Creativity is an important tool for transforming people and raising their consciousness," Leal told Vital Voice. "My great passion is beauty. Beauty has the capacity to inspire, to touch individuals in a more subtle way. For this reason, I like to make beautiful things with the artisans of COOPA-ROCA."

Leal realized that most small businesses helping the poor fail despite their best intentions. They often make the same mistakes: they fail to produce high quality goods, they fail to do market research and understand who they are selling to, they fail to develop the skills of their workers, and most importantly, they fail to see that they have to compete in a global economy with lots of other enterprises. How many people have seen crafts and knickknacks for sale that nobody really wants?

Slum dwellers are on the increase across the South. As the world becomes a more urban place – and 70 million people move every year to the world's cities (UN) – the growing population of poor women and households presents a dilemma: how to provide meaningful work so they do not fall risk to exploitation? Without work opportunities, women can feel pressured to turn to prostitution, or even be trafficked by gangs for work or sex. And women in slums experience greater levels of unemployment than those who live elsewhere (UNHABITAT).

Women now make up the majority of the world's poor: 70 percent of the world's poor are women, as are a majority of the 1.5 billion living on less than US \$1 a day (UNESCO).

Established in 1981 from a recycling project for local children, COOPA-ROCA started with finding ways to use thrown away scraps of cloth to make clothing. It eventually evolved into a cooperative. It focused on improving traditional Brazilian decorative craftwork skills like drawstring appliqué, crochet, knot work and patchwork.

"COOPA-ROCA works with traditional handicraft techniques that are widely used by women around the world," explains Leal. "As COOPA-ROCA works with fashion, and fashion is always linked with media, the COOPA-ROCA artisans inspire other women who recognize in themselves the potential to do the kind of work that COOPA-ROCA does."

For its first five years, COOPA-ROCA concentrated on building the organization and the skills of the artisans. Once a production structure was in place, quality control workshops were set up to increase the quality of the products so they could compete better in the marketplace.

"Many social projects believe that money is the only resource required to begin their work. The COOPA-ROCA case proves that social organizations must use a

more entrepreneurial vision to understand the concept of resources."

The cooperative's mission statement is to "provide conditions for its members, female residents of Rocinha, to work from home and thereby contribute to their family budget, without having to neglect their childcare and domestic duties."

By doing this to a high standard, the profile and reputation of traditional crafts has been raised.

The COOPA-ROCA hopes the work shows others how they can increase income in poor communities. The cooperative has 150 members and has partners in the wider fashion and decorative design markets.

The women equally share responsibility for production, administration and publicity. While they work at home, they come to the office to drop off the completed pieces and pick up more fabric.

The success of the cooperative has led to donations of funds to build a new headquarters designed by architect Joao Mauricio Pegorim.

Despite the cooperative's success, it is still not easy to work with partners. "There are many negative preconceptions about Rocinha and the people who live there, both within and outside of Brazil. COOPA-ROCA is consistently rejected when it applies for loans," Leal said. "Furthermore, the cooperative's commercial partners usually do not enter the favela themselves, and I must serve as a bridge between the two worlds."

But Leal is still ambitious for bigger things: "I envision COOPA-ROCA expanding to include 400 women artisans, producing for commercial partners, selling their own brand in Brazil and abroad, and carrying out fashion and design projects in the new headquarters in Rocinha."

Links

- The online service CafePress is a specially designed one-stop shop that lets entrepreneurs upload their designs, and then sell them via their online payment and worldwide shipping service.
Website: <http://www.cafepress.com/cp/info/sell/>
- Tips on how to start your own t-shirt business. Website: http://www.pioneerthinking.com/dy_tshirt.html And how to do it online: Website: http://www.ehow.com/how_2135779_start-network-online-tshirt-company.html
- Once inspired to get into the global fashion business, check out this business website for all the latest news, jobs and events.
Website: <http://us.fashionmag.com/news/index.php>
- iFashion: This web portal run from South Africa has all the latest business news on fashion in Africa and profiles of up-and-coming designers.
Website: http://www.ifashion.co.za/index.php?option=com_frontpage&Itemid=1
- Kiva: Kiva's mission is to connect people, through lending, for the sake of alleviating poverty.
Website: <http://www.kiva.org/>
- Betterplace: Is another great way to solicit funds for NGOs or businesses in the developing world.
Website: www.betterplace.org
- Viva Favela: The first Internet portal in Brazil. Viva Favela has a team made up of journalists and "community correspondents" – favela residents qualified to

act as reporters and photographers.

Website:<http://www.vivafavela.com.br/publique/cgi/cgilua.exe/sys/start.htm?infoid=40489&sid=74>

- Women in Poverty: A New Global Underclass by Mayra Buvinic (1998).
Website:<http://www.onlinewomeninpolitics.org/beijing12/womeninpoverty.pdf>

A Solution to Stop Garbage Destroying Tourism

Tourism is an essential source of income for countries across the South. But many put that livelihood in jeopardy when they lose control of garbage collection. A popular tourist spot can represent a 'paradise' to visitors, but when it becomes too popular and local garbage collection systems collapse under the burden, 'paradise' can soon turn to an environmental hell.

The small, tourist-friendly Indonesian island of Bali (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bali>) – known for its idyllic pleasures of spas, surf and serenity – is being overwhelmed by garbage. A survey of tourists found two-thirds would not return to the island because of the problem.

Tourism took off on the island in the 1970s. The economic benefits are clear: the island went from being economically marginal to ranking second only to the country's capital, Jakarta, in wealth creation. The island received more than 2.38 million tourists in 2009, up 14.5 percent compared with 2008, according to Ida Komang Wisnu, head of the provincial statistics office. But tourism produces on average five kilograms of waste a day per tourist – 10 times what the average Indonesian produces (Bali Fokus).

In the past, the traditional way of serving food in Indonesia was to wrap it in, or serve it on, a palm leaf: a biodegradable approach. But with the huge expansion in use of plastics and non-biodegradable packaging, the waste disposal problem is out of control.

In Indonesia, government garbage disposal services tend to collect between 30 and 40 percent of solid waste, most of this from high income communities. The majority poor population are left to fend for themselves when it comes to waste disposal.

A solution by Yuyun Ismawati, an environmental engineer and consultant, has since 1996 focused on helping poor communities find ways to safely dispose of waste. In 2000, she started her own NGO – Bali Fokus (<http://balifokus.asia/balifokus/>) – and opened a waste management facility in the Bali village of Temesi. The recycling plant employs 40 people from the village, who sort garbage into recyclables, compost and residual waste. Income from the recycled waste and compost goes to helping local farmers.

She then expanded her concept to include households around Bali and elsewhere in Indonesia. She concentrated on housewives and targeted reducing the amount of household waste going to dump sites. A core team trains housewives in daily habits that separate waste and compost organic matter like vegetable and fruit scraps. Bali Fokus claims it has been able to reduce waste created by 50 percent in 500 homes. Some of the women sell their compost in local markets; recyclables are turned into sellable items.

From 2001 to 2003, Ismawati turned this approach into a replicable template called SANIMAS. By 2008, the SANIMAS template was being used in hundreds of communities across Indonesia.

Her solution to the deluge of tourist waste can be seen in the luxury Jimbaran Bay area of Bali. Traditionally, the area's hotels would sell their waste to pig farmers. While the pigs feasted on the fancy scraps, the rest of the waste was put in plastic bags and thrown away in mangrove forests.

"I told hotels: Your job is to sell rooms, not to sell garbage," Ismawati recalls. "We have to protect Bali or else tourists won't want to come here anymore."

Ismawati cleverly turned the relationship around: rather than a pig farmer paying for

scraps, she convinced one of them there was money to be made recycling and sorting garbage. For this, the hotels would pay the farmer.

A network of 25 hotels now pays to have their garbage taken away and sorted by hand: an important source of full-time jobs.

The workers sort through paper, plastics, glass, aluminium, food scraps and vegetables. Each week, 140 trucks deliver waste to the facility. Only 10 leave with waste that has to go to a dump site.

Food leftovers are bought by local pig farmers and grass clippings and other organic matter is composted (http://www.recyclenow.com/home_composting/), and eventually makes its way back to the hotels and is distributed in the flower beds.

This system has created 400 jobs where the pig farmer once only employed 10 people.

"If you want a hi-tech solution in a developing country you will wait and wait and wait until you get the money, or big donors to fund it," Ismawati told the Telegraph newspaper. "And even then it may not work."

A graphic example of this is a donated waste recycling machine given by the local government. It can't be used because the electricity to power it costs too much. Human labour is a cheaper option.

Bali Fokus' successful approach has now been replicated in six other sites on the nearby island of Java. And the government of Indonesia has promised to help create 15 more each year.

In 2009 Ismawati won the Goldman Award (<http://www.goldmanprize.org/>), which honors grassroots environmental heroes from the six inhabited continental regions: Africa, Asia, Europe, Islands and Island Nations, North America, and South and Central America.

She is also working on using decentralized grassroots approaches to bringing sewage disposal and clean water to communities.

Links

- A guide to establishing recycling projects based on experience in Mongolia.
Website: <http://tinyurl.com/yfkn2dp>
- A video showing the problem of waste disposal in poor communities in Jakarta.
Website: <http://www.videosift.com/video/Garbage-ring-The-slums-of-Jakarta-Indonesia>

Window on the World

BOOKS

The Blue Sweater: Bridging the Gap Between the Rich and Poor in an Interconnected World

- by Jacqueline Novogratz, Publisher: Acumen Fund
- A personal memoir of a woman who has spent her life on a quest to understand global poverty and to find powerful new ways of tackling it.

Website: <http://www.acumenfund.org/bluesweater/>

Globalization and Competition: Why Some Emergent Countries Succeed while Others Fall Behind

by Luiz Carlos Bresser Pereira, Publisher: Cambridge University Press.

Website:

- http://www.networkideas.org/book/jan2010/bk12_GACL.htm

Power and Plenty: Trade, War, and the World Economy in the Second Millennium

by Ronald Findlay and Kevin H. O'Rourke, Publisher: Princeton University Press.

Website: www.amazon.com

State of the World 2010: Transforming Cultures from Consumerism to Sustainability

by Erik Assadourian & Staff, Publisher: Worldwatch Institute, 2010

In State of the World 2010, 60 renowned researchers and practitioners describe how we can harness the world's leading institutions—education, the media, business, governments, traditions, and social movements—to reorient cultures toward sustainability.

Website: <http://www.worldwatch.org/sow10>

Asian Development Outlook 2009: Rebalancing Asia's Growth

Publisher: Asian Development Bank

The annual Asian Development Outlook provides a comprehensive economic analysis of 45 economies in developing Asia and the Pacific. Based on ADB's unique knowledge of the region, the 21st edition examines trends and prospects in Central Asia, East Asia, Pacific, South Asia, and Southeast Asia in the context of global economic movements.

Website: <http://www.adb.org/Documents/Books/ADO/2009/>

China: And the End of Poverty in Africa – Towards Mutual Benefit?

by Penny Davis, Publisher: Diakonia and the European Network on Debt and Development

The purpose of this report is to contribute to an increased knowledge and understanding of China's role in Africa. The report explores Chinese views on China's role as an important player in development policies and what responses China has to concerns expressed by external stakeholders about the increased Chinese cooperation with Africa.

Website: http://www.eurodad.org/uploadedFiles/Whats_New/Reports/Kinarapport_A4.pdf

PAPERS

African Poverty is Falling...Much Faster than You Think!

by Xavier Sala-i-Martin and Maxim Pinkovskiy, Publisher: The National Bureau of Economic Research.

The conventional wisdom that Africa is not reducing poverty is wrong. African poverty is falling and is falling rapidly, and if present trends continue, the poverty Millennium Development Goal of halving the proportion of people with incomes less than one dollar a day will be achieved on time.

Website: <http://www.nber.org/papers/w15775>

The Emerging Middle Class in Developing Countries

Publisher: OECD

Website: <http://www.oecdilibrary.org/oecd/content/workingpaper/5kmmp8lncrns-en> (PDF - 2.09 mb)

Trends in South African Income Distribution and Poverty since the Fall of Apartheid

Publisher: OECD

Website: <http://www.oecdilibrary.org/oecd/content/workingpaper/5kmms0t7p1ms-en>

The BRICSAM Countries and Changing World Economic Power: Scenarios to 2050

by Manmohan Agarwal, Publisher: The Centre for International Governance Innovation. Working Paper: Shifting Global Power

Africa and Mexico has the potential to change the balance of economic power in the world. This paper analyzes this potential building on developments in these economies over the past four decades in the context of the evolution of the world economy.

Website: http://www.cigionline.com/sites/default/files/Paper_39-web-1.pdf

The Implications of China's Ascendancy for Africa by Hany Besada

Publisher: The Centre for International Governance Innovation. Working Paper: Shifting Global Power

This paper examines the extent to which China's engagement with Africa has produced mutual benefits for both and whether Africa is reaping the necessary benefits required for poverty alleviation and economic development.

Website: http://www.cigionline.com/sites/default/files/Paper_40-web.pdf

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The MDGs and Beyond: Pro-Poor Policy in a Changing World

by Andy Summer and Claire Melamed, Publisher: International Policy Centre for Inclusive Growth.

Website: <http://www.pelicanweb.org/solisustv06n03page5sumnermelamed.html>

WEB BASED ARTICLES

China now leading world out of recession, says OECD Economic Surveys: China 2010

Already the world's second largest economy, China could well overtake the United States to become the leading producer of manufactured goods in the next five to seven years.

Website: <http://www.oecd.org/document/>

Eurasian Business Directory 2010

Publisher: ZakMedia

A DVD database of 1,200,000 companies from Russia and countries of Eastern Europe, translated into English language. The database contains the name, postal address, phone, fax, website, email, contact name, country of representation and description for each company.

Website: <http://zakmedia.ru/>

Africa begins to make poverty history

US economists challenge conventional view that the continent is a basket case.

Website: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/business/2010/mar/03/africa-makes-poverty-history>

Triple Crisis Blog: Global Perspectives on Finance, Development and Environment

Website: <http://triplecrisis.com/>

Where Western business sees 'risk', Chinese entrepreneurs see opportunity

by Dr Jing Gu

Dr Gu and her China based team from the China-Africa Business Council (CABC) and the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS) have had direct access to private Chinese companies working in Africa, including 100 in-depth interviews with Chinese firms and business associations and officials in both China and Africa.

Website: <http://www.ids.ac.uk/go/news/where-western-business-sees-risk-chinese-entrepreneurs-see-opportunity>

Human Development Report 2009 Publisher: United Nations Development Programme

The Report explores how better policies towards mobility can enhance human development

Website: www.unp.un.org

China's Rise: Challenges and Opportunities

by Leslie Chang, Publisher: Picador.

Website: www.amazon.com

When China Rules the World

by C. Fred Bergstan, Charles Freeman, Nicholas R. Lardy and Derek J. Mitchell, Publisher: Peterson Institute for International Economics

Website: www.piie.com

Peoplequake: Mass Migration, Ageing Nations and the Coming Population Crash

by Fred Pearce, Publisher: Eden Project

Website: www.amazon.com

Raising the Global Floor: Dismantling the Myth That We Can't Afford Good Working Conditions for Everyone

by Jody Heyman and Alison Earle, Publisher: Stanford University Press

Website: www.sup.org

Half the Sky: Turning Oppression Into Opportunity for Women Worldwide

by Nicholas D. Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn, Publisher: Knopf

Website: www.amazon.com

Gravity Shift: How Asia's New Economic Powerhouses Will Shape the 21st Century

by Wendy Dobson, Publisher: Rotman UTP

Website: www.utpublishing.com

Top African Banker Defends Investment from China

by Anne Seith, Publisher: Spiegel Online

Website: <http://www.spiegel.de/international/world/0,1518,674887,00.html#ref=nlint>

Africa: Africa's Counter-Cyclical Policy Responses to the Crisis

by Louis Kasekende, Zuzana Brixova and Leonce Ndikumana, Journal of Globalization and Development, Vol. 1, Issue 1, 2010, Article 16

Website: <http://www.afdb.org>

Upcoming Events

World Urban Forum 5

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (22-26 March 2010)

In the space of a few short years, the World Urban Forum has turned into the world's premier conference on cities. The Forum was established by the United Nations to examine one of the most pressing problems facing the world today: rapid urbanization and its impact on communities, cities, economies, climate change and policies.

Website: <http://mirror.unhabitat.org/categories.asp?catid=584>

World Water Day 2010

Stockholm, Sweden (22 March 2010)

Every year, 1,500 cubic kilometres of wastewater are produced globally. While waste and wastewater can be reused productively for energy and irrigation, it usually is not. In developing countries 80 percent of all waste is being discharged untreated, because of lack of regulations and resources. And population and industrial growth add new sources of pollution and increased demand for clean water to the equation. Human and environmental health, drinking and agricultural water supplies for the present and future are at stake, still water pollution rarely warrants mention as a pressing issue. To do something about that, UN-Water has chosen Communicating Water Quality Challenges and Opportunities as theme for World Water Day 2010. The overall goal of the World Water Day on 22 March 2010 campaign is to raise the profile of water quality at the political level so that water quality considerations are made alongside those of water quantity.

Website: www.worldwaterday.org

The High Level Event on South-South Cooperation and Capacity Development

Bogota, Colombia (24-26 March 2010)

The Event aims to show what partner countries and international organizations are doing

regarding South-South Cooperation and what they have learned. The Event expects to boost the voice of partner countries, as both providers and recipients, towards a more inclusive global development agenda. It is expected to generate a consensus on specific actions to be taken, in order to accelerate exchange and peer learning processes. The results of a global case study contest will be presented.

Website: http://www.impactalliance.org/ev_en.php?ID=48980_201&ID2=DO_COMMUNITY

Globe 2010

Vancouver, BC, Canada (24-26 March 2010)

This series of events is dedicated to bringing together professionals from the environment sector. Every two years, corporate executives, government representatives, environmental senior managers, urban planners and financial executives meet to discuss emerging priorities and opportunities in the business of the environment. GLOBE 2010 will host 12,000 participants, 2,200 conference delegates, 500 exhibitors, 200 speakers and dozens of international delegations from over 70 countries. The Conference will focus on major themes such as Corporate Sustainability, Climate Change and Energy, Finance and Sustainability, Building Better Cities, and the Future of the Automotive Industry.

Website: www.globe2010.com

2nd China Microfinance Investor Conference

Beijing, China (25-26 March 2010)

For 2010, GTZ and PBC will be collaborating with WMFG for a 2nd China Microfinance Investor Conference. The conference will bring together international and Chinese investors with local providers of inclusive financial services, regulators and other stakeholders in the industry. With the recent establishment of hundreds of new MicroCredit Companies, participants are bound to have extensive food for talk!

Website: <http://www.microfinanceforum.org/>

April

IAIA10: Transitioning to the Green Economy

Geneva, Switzerland (6-10 April 2010)

To transition toward green economies, assessments must first demonstrate the types of green investments that best fit local, national, and regional environments. Impact assessments have the power to influence and shape green policy, which will in turn play a major role in addressing the global crises. IAIA10 will focus on the following sectors that have the potential for sustainable green investment.

Website: <http://www.iaia.org/iaia10/default.aspx>

3rd Annual Carbon Trade China 2010

Beijing, China (15-16 April 2010)

Carbon Trade came out in response to the Kyoto Protocol, Signed in Kyoto, Japan, by 180 countries in December 1997, effective from 2005 and run out in 2012. During the last three years, 1899 registered CDM projects has been producing 352,218,246 ton issuance CERs. To keep the process on the line, there is an urgent need for a new climate protocol. Under this urgency, the COP15 is the last time for the parties of UNFCCC to meet on a government level before the Kyoto Protocol is renewed.

Website: <http://www.chinacarbontrade.com.cn/>

MIT Sustainability Summit 2010

Cambridge, USA (23 April 2010)

All the technology and great ideas in the world cannot achieve sustainability by themselves. This summit focuses on the communication and collaboration necessary to make sustainability a reality. Attendees will learn and practice innovative methods for creating effective dialogue and working together during complex decision-making situations and multi-stakeholder engagements. The conference welcomes all attendees interested in sustainability, including but not limited to students, engineers, business leaders, non-profit leaders, academics, environmental activists, and public servants.

Website: <http://sustainabilitysummit.mit.edu/>

Buenos Aires International Book Fair

Buenos Aires, Argentina (22 April- 10 May 2010)

The Latin world's biggest book fairs and a great place to catch up on what is happening in the world of ideas.

Website: <http://www.el-libro.org.ar/>

May

Expo 2010 Shanghai China

Shanghai, China (1 May to 31 October 2010)

UN-HABITAT AND the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation in the United Nations Development Programmes (UNDP) signed a Memorandum of Understanding establishing the Global South Creative Economy exhibition in the UN Pavilion at the Shanghai World Expo 2010.

The Global South Creative Economy exhibition will depict how the creative economy is an engine for better livable cities with better lifestyles for all in alignment with the Shanghai World Expo 2010 theme: Better City, Better Life. Whenever these goals are achieved, people are at centre stage and involved in activities that use creativity as a main resource. The creative economy can be an important driver for economic growth and the agenda, represented at this exhibition, takes a broader view, asserting that long-term sustainable development can be achieved by effectively utilising creative assets.

Website: <http://en.expo2010.cn/>

ISCRAM 2010: Defining Crisis Management 3.0

Seattle, Washington, USA (2-5 May 2010)

The ISCRAM 2010 conference-theme is Defining Crisis Management 3.0. Our aim is to look forward at the future of crisis management systems and consider how our rapidly changing socio-technical environments are affecting the ways we respond to crises in our ever more interconnected world. ISCRAM is an international association on information systems for crisis response and management. It has been holding conferences in previous years as well. More information on the past conferences is available at www.iscram.org. The ISCRAM 2010 Conference will include numerous refereed paper and poster presentations by practitioners, teachers, researchers, and experts.

Website: <http://iscram2010.parvac.washington.edu/>

Global Voices: Citizen Media Summit 2010

Santiago, Chile (6-7 May 2010)

The theme of the meeting is "Next generation citizen media, public access and citizen participation." Global Voices Online will gather with a diverse group of bloggers, activists, technologists, journalists from around the world for two days of public discussions and workshops. A two-day internal meeting for Global Voices editors, translators and contributors will follow the public gathering. The event will be held at the Santiago Public Library.

Website: <http://summit2010.globalvoicesonline.org/>

2010 Energy Efficiency Global Forum and Exposition

Washington DC, USA (10-12 May 2010)

Launched in 2007, EE Global is the only international event that focuses solely on energy efficiency from the perspective of all energy end-use sectors (buildings, industrial and transportation) and with coverage of all cross-cutting issues – finance, policy, technology and market transformation. Hosted by the Alliance to Save Energy, EE Global attracts executive-level leaders from all end-use sectors who are committed to putting energy efficiency to work in their businesses, communities and markets.

Website: http://ase.org/section/_audience/events1/eeglobal

Solar Maghreb – Developing Large-scale North African Solar Markets

Algiers, Algeria (11-12 May 2010)

This event will bring together key players from the region – with particular focus on Algeria, Morocco, Egypt, Tunisia, Libya and Mauritania – with global industry experts. The Maghreb region contains vast solar energy resources and the exploitation of these will be a critical factor in helping accelerate the region's economic development. The Maghreb countries have realized that tremendous opportunities exist and are beginning to diversify their energy markets away from an over reliance on oil and gas.

Website: <http://www2.greenpowerconferences.co.uk>

Bioenergy Markets Africa 2010

Maputo, Mozambique (11-13 May 2010)

The event offers an integrated solution of brand positioning, business development and face-to-face networking opportunities with senior decision makers. Sustainable bioenergy remains a key part of the global energy solution and East & Southern Africa represents a nascent marketplace. The growing demand for biofuels has sparked a green revolution in Africa and a frenzy of biofuel crop planting and investment. Despite these opportunities there are still several challenges that remain before the region can fully benefit: Food vs. fuel – bioenergy needs to be produced in a sustainable manner, water availability – management of this resource is key, land tenure – developing best practice to balance the needs of investors with small farmers, scale of production – incorporating cooperative models, lack of infrastructure – investments are required to expand production. Knowledge base – new information systems with timely data on potential, water availability and agronomic techniques, life cycle analysis – applications must ensure GHG reductions, Policy – the need for a clear guidelines and incentives.

Website: Website: <http://www2.greenpowerconferences.co.uk>

Challenge Bibendum – Rio 2010

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (30 May to 2 June 2010)

Ever since the inaugural edition in 1998, Challenge Bibendum has set out to provide a forum which addresses road transport issues (energy supply and associated geo-political tensions, greenhouse gas emissions, road safety, urban pollution and traffic congestion) at all levels and has worked with a wide range of transport stakeholders to mobilise support to speed up the implementation of all possible solutions for a more sustainable road mobility.

Website: www.challengebibendum.com

June

Green Business Africa Summit and Expo 2010

Nairobi, Kenya (2-4 June 2010)

The Green Business Africa Summit & Expo will bring to the mainstream issues around sustainability in the business environment as well as green corporate social responsibility (CSR). The Summit will provide business leaders at all levels with insight in developing and enhancing profitable and sustainable business enterprises and practices.

Website: www.greenbusinessafricaexpo.com

Footprint Forum 2010: Meet the Winners of the 21st Century

Colle di Val d'Elsa, Italy (7-12 June 2010)

The Forum Roundtables are a series of fast-paced, highly interactive conversations on critical topics, designed to move the sustainability agenda forward during a time of increasing resource constraints. The aim of the sessions is to overcome barriers to action, fill gaps in knowledge, and identify strategies that inspire further sustainability investments and bring about systemic change.

Website: http://www.footprintnetwork.org/en/index.php/GFN/page/footprint_forum_intro/

Sustainable Ocean Summit 2010

Belfast, UK (15-17 June 2010)

Leaders from ocean industries dependent on marine space, services and resources will gather to develop cross-sectoral business action on Corporate Ocean Responsibility, as part of the global industry alliance on ocean sustainability catalyzed by the World Ocean Council. Sustainable Ocean Summit participants will include: shipping, oil and gas, fisheries, marine tourism, renewable ocean energy, shipbuilding, marine technology, ports, dredging, seabed mining, seabed cables/pipelines, and others, as well as maritime insurance, finance and legal services.

Website: www.oceancouncil.org

UN Global Compact Leaders Summit 2010

New York, USA (24-25 June 2010)

The UN Global Compact Leaders Summit 2010 will bring together leaders from all sectors

to elevate the role of responsible business and investment in bringing about the needed transformation to more sustainable and inclusive markets.

Website:

http://www.unglobalcompact.org/NewsAndEvents/2010_Leaders_Summit/index.html

International Water Week: Singapore 2010

Singapore (28 June to 2 July 2010)

The Singapore International Water Week is the global platform that brings policymakers, industry leaders, experts and practitioners together to address challenges, showcase technologies, discover opportunities and celebrate achievements in the water world. Singapore International Water Week 2010, aptly themed Sustainable Cities: Clean and Affordable Water.

Website: <http://www.siww.com.sg/about-singapore-international-water-week>

The Green Enterprise World Forum

London, UK (30 June 2010)

A one day conference and Exhibition dedicated to Green IT and Sustainable Computing. Hear from leading case studies on how they have integrated Green Computing into their working practices. Find out how Green IT can create competitive advantage and improve your bottom line, learn from the key stakeholders in the industry and network with leading platform and service operators.

Website: <http://www.greenenterpriseforum.com/>

July

Investing in Developing Markets – The Role of Domestic Financial Markets in Low and Middle Income Countries

London, UK (1 July 2010)

Developing the financial sector in emerging and developing markets. Now that investors are refocusing on emerging and developing markets, the time is right to discuss how to strengthen the financial sector and develop the financial markets in these economies. Investors and governments share an interest in exploring ways to improve investment flows and returns.

Website: http://www.chathamhouse.org.uk/developing_markets/

UN Development Cooperation Forum

New York, USA (TBC July 2010)

The biennial high-level Development Cooperation Forum (DCF) is one of the principal new functions of a strengthened Economic and Social Council. Mandated to enhance the implementation of the internationally agreed development goals, including the MDGs, and promote dialogue to find effective ways to support it, the DCF will be held every other year within the framework of the High-level Segment of the Council.

Website: <http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/newfunct/develop.shtml>

TED Global 2010: And Now the Good News

Oxford, UK (12-16 July 2010)

TEDGlobal 2010, held over the course of four days in Oxford, will explore the shocking undercurrent of good news just below the surface of today's troubling headlines. Headlines remind us daily of the political, economic and environmental woes facing the planet. But behind the scenes lie an amazing array of new ideas, new science, new technology, new social and political thinking, new art and a new understanding of who we are. When you put it all together, an entirely more hopeful view of the future emerges. Many of the remarkable architects of that future -- those who are pushing the boundaries of what is known and expanding the possible -- will join us at TEDGlobal 2010, from all over the world. We will make a full announcement of the program in the months leading up to the conference.

Website: <http://conferences.ted.com/TEDGlobal2010/>

August

Have an even in August you would like the South-South community to know about? Then send details to developmentchallenges@googlemail.com

September

World Water Week 2010

Stockholm, Sweden (5-11 September 2010)

The Week provides a unique forum for the exchange of views and experiences between the scientific, business, policy and civic communities. It focuses on new thinking and positive action toward water-related challenges and their impact on the world's environment, health, economic and poverty reduction agendas.

Website: <http://www.worldwaterweek.org/>

Millennium Development Goals Summit

New York, USA (20-22 September 2010)

With only five years left until the 2015 deadline to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has called on world leaders to attend a summit in New York on 20-22 September 2010 to boost progress towards the MDGs. Read the Secretary-General's report, "Keeping the Promise", which serves as the basis for Member States' deliberations on an action-oriented outcome document for the Summit. It identifies successes and gaps, and lays out an agenda for 2010-2015. "Our world possesses the knowledge and resources to achieve the MDGs," Mr. Ban says in the report. Falling short of the Goals "would be an unacceptable failure, moral and practical."

Website: <http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/>

October

Asia Microfinance Forum 2010

Colombo, Sri Lanka (12-15 October 2010)

This milestone event will bring together leading microfinance practitioners, policymakers, financiers, academics and advocates from around the world to outline their visions and priorities, and explore new ideas, opportunities and partnerships. The BWTP network actively promotes the development of microfinance in Asia through research, advocacy, policy dialogue, information sharing and capacity building.

Website: <http://www.bwtp.org/news/?p=129>

November

Water Investment World Africa 2010

Johannesburg, South Africa (8-11 November 2010)

The Conference is positioned to the decision makers in this sector. With over 340million people in Africa without access to water and African governments' commitment to the Millennium Development Goals, a lot needs to be accomplished in a very short time in this sector.

Website: <http://www.terrapinn.com/2010/waterza/>

December

International Conference on Information and Communication Technologies and Development

London, UK (13-16 December 2010)

CALL FOR PAPERS: The call for papers and sessions at ICTD2010 has recently been announced - with a deadline for submissions of 2nd April 2010.

The conference is the latest in the series of highly successful international ICTD conferences held in Doha (2009), Bangalore (2007) and Berkeley (2006). It aims to provide a forum for researchers, practitioners and all those with interests in the use of information and communication technologies in development practice to meet to discuss the latest research advances in the field.

Building on the success of its predecessors, ICTD2010 will combine two days of plenary peer-reviewed paper sessions, with two days of workshops, panel sessions, discussion forums, demos and sessions in both Spanish and French. A particular feature will be the opportunity that it will provide for participatory involvement from people from a diversity of backgrounds.

ICTD2010 is being hosted by the UNESCO Chair in ICT4D and the multidisciplinary ICT4D Research Centre at Royal Holloway, University of London's magnificent campus situated only 20 minutes from London's Heathrow airport.

Website: <http://www.ictd2010.org/>

APPLY NOW! World Habitat Awards 2010/2011:

The World Habitat Awards were established in 1985 by the Building and Social Housing Foundation as part of its contribution to the United Nations International Year of Shelter for the Homeless. Two awards are given annually to projects from the global North as well as the South that provide practical and innovative solutions to current housing needs and problems. Every year an award of £10,000 is presented to each of the two winners at the annual United Nations global celebration of World Habitat Day. Travel and accommodation costs are also met for one representative of each winning project to attend the awards ceremony.

Transitions Online (TOL) is pleased to announce the launch of the 2009 TOL Photo Competition.

The topic is "20 Years After the Fall of the Iron Curtain", and TOL encourages participants to submit photographs that best capture the changes over the past 20 years in Central and Eastern Europe.

DEADLINE: December 13, 2009.

Website: <http://www.worldhabitatawards.org/enter/apply.cfm?lang=00>

Website: <http://www.tol.cz/look/TOL/article.tpl?>

[IdLanguage=1&IdPublication=18&NrIssue=1&NrSection=70&NrArticle=20946](http://www.tol.cz/look/TOL/article.tpl?IdLanguage=1&IdPublication=18&NrIssue=1&NrSection=70&NrArticle=20946)

African Economic Outlook

EDUCATING AFRICA: Pan African Awards for Entrepreneurship in Education 2009

Now in its third year, the EDUCATING AFRICA Pan-African Awards for Entrepreneurship in Education continue to seek to identify the very best organizations which have risen to this challenge; to highlight their models, and to reward their achievements. As well as a first prize of \$10,000 and two runners-up prizes of \$5,000, there are up to 50 awards of \$1,000 available for the best entry from every country on the continent.

DEADLINE: December 31, 2009

Website: <http://bit.ly/3rtAQT>

Appeal for Help

MobileActive.org are updating their database of mobile applications used for health, social development, agriculture, advocacy, education, civic media, human rights, and other civil society areas. If you have or are developing a mobile application used in any area of social development, please enter it in the MobileActive database. There is currently no comprehensive database of mobile applications for social development available but they are building it with people's help.

Website: <http://www.zoomerang.com/Survey/survey-intro.zgi?p=WEB228VQ3HV6D3>

They have also set up a Wiki with the latest notices about upcoming events around the world.

Website: <http://mobiletech4socialchange.pbworks.com/>

Training Opportunities

Ongoing

Grameen Bank Microcredit Training Programs

Website: www.grameen-info.org

The Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) Courses

The Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), one of the USA's best known private universities, has made all 1,800 courses in its curriculum (environmental sciences, computer studies, physics...) available free on-line, using an open source system called OpenCourseWare (OCW). Each month, some 1.5 million surfers, most of them based outside the USA, follow the lessons and lectures in PDF, audio and video formats, some are also translated into French and Portuguese. MIT is working with other universities to help them set up their own OCW.

Website: ocw.mit.edu

Sustainable Tourism Criteria

The criteria focus on four areas experts recommend as the most critical aspects of sustainable tourism: maximizing tourism's social and economic benefits to local communities; reducing negative impacts on cultural heritage; reducing harm to local environments; and planning for sustainability. The GSTC Partnership is developing educational materials and technical tools to guide hotels and tour operators in implementing the criteria.

Website: www.sustainableTourismCriteria.org

Two Workshops Offered for Development Practitioners

The community-managed microfinance course deals with providing sustainable financial services for the very poor. Although MFIs are well-established, they have mostly failed to penetrate remote rural areas because the costs are too high and the demand for credit too small. Meanwhile, over the last 15 years, massive, sustainable programmes have emerged that reach this target group at very low cost, based on autonomous, small-scale savings and loan associations. Co-sponsored by the SNHU Community Economic Development Masters Program at the Open University of Tanzania and VSL Associates.

Website: <http://rs6.net>

Careers

Development Executive Group Devex Networking Website

Over 90,000 global experts can network and connect and learn about more than 47,000 registered projects.

Website: www.devex.org

New Website Offers Career Advice to Young Africans

Set up by the Commonwealth Secretariat, Africancareerguidance.com is aimed at providing career guidance to African youth and helping them to link with prospective employers. AfricaRecruit is a human resources organisation that provides skills training for African professionals in the Diaspora and on the continent. The website has an inbuilt email subscriber list for all its users and offers a searchable database of career profiles for job seekers and prospective employers. It also offers skills and interest assessments and advice on CV and résumé preparation. It provides tips about interviewing techniques, as well as information on internship and volunteer opportunities, and entrepreneurial skills.

Website: www.africancareerguidance.com

African Diaspora Skills Database

This database was compiled to provide an overview of qualified African

Diaspora professionals with varied areas of expertise and experience. The African Diaspora contributes substantially to the social, economic and political development of Africa, and this database is set up to further mobilize this considerable potential.

Website: www.diaspora-centre.org

Aid Workers Network (AWN)

Aid Workers Network (AWN) is an online platform for aid, relief and development workers to ask and answer questions of each other, and to exchange resources and information. AWN is registered in the United Kingdom as a charity. You will find discussions about a range of questions and issues on the AWN forum from aid, relief and development workers all over the world and representing a variety of fields, with new threads or responses posted daily. The forum is a great way to get in contact with other aid and development workers in your geographic area or working in a similar area of work.

Website: www.aidworkers.net

Bizzlounge

Bizzlounge is where people committed to ethical behaviour meet, who want to establish and maintain business contacts in an exclusive and relaxed environment.

Website: bizzlounge.com

Business Action for Africa

Business Action for Africa is a network of businesses and business organisations working collectively to accelerate growth and poverty reduction in Africa.

Website: businessactionforafrica.blogspot.com

Business Fights Poverty

Business Fights Poverty is a professional network for all those passionate about fighting world poverty through the power of good business.

Website: businessfightspoverty.ning.com

Business in Development Network (BiD)

The BiD Network Foundation runs the BiD Challenge to contribute to sustainable economic development by stimulating entrepreneurship in developing countries.

Website: www.bidnetwork.org

Catalogue of Poverty Networks

UNDP is organizing an online catalogue of Poverty Networks as a means to facilitate access to knowledge and sharing this to a wider audience in 189 countries. Poverty Networks are web-based platforms that provide space for sharing and disseminating development-related information and initiatives. Below you will find information on IPC's collaborating networks, which help foster dialogue between researchers, policymakers, civil society and multilateral organisations.

Website: www.undp-povertycentre.org

Connections for Development (CfD)

CfD is a UK, Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) led, membership based organisation committed to ensuring that UK BME communities, and the organisations they are involved in, are supported in the process of shaping and delivering policy and projects that affect their countries of origin or interest !! collectively our world

Website: www.cfdnetwork.co.uk

Development Crossing

Development Crossing was set up in 2006 by a small group of friends with diverse backgrounds ranging from business consulting to international development. In a world where the environment, corporate responsibility, and sustainable development are becoming increasingly intertwined, our goal was to create a site where individuals that shared our passion could keep up-to-date with relevant happenings in the world and connect with like-minded individuals. The idea behind Development Crossing is to provide a social network that brings together people from a variety of sectors, countries and professions to discuss corporate social responsibility and sustainable development.

Website: www.developmentcrossing.com

DevelopmentAid.org

The one-stop-information-shop for the developmental sector, DevelopmentAid.org is a membership organization that brings together information for

developmental professionals, NGOs, consultancy firms and donors.

Website: www.developmentaid.org

dgCommunities on the Development Gateway

dgCommunities, a free online service by the Development Gateway Foundation is devoted to knowledge-sharing and collaboration for people working to reduce poverty in the developing world.

Website: topics.developmentgateway.org

Diaspora African Forum

This Forum exists "to invite and encourage the full participation of Africans in the Diaspora in the building of the African Union, in its capacity as an important part of the Continent". We will provide the vital linkage for Diaspora Africans to become involved in Africa's development as well as reap the fruits of African unity.

Website: www.diasporafricanforum.org

Eldis Communities

Eldis aims to share the best in development, policy, practice and research. The Eldis Community is a free on-line community where you can meet others involved in international development and discuss the issues that are important to you.

Website: community.eldis.org

Enterprise Development Exchange

The Enterprise Development Exchange links related communities of practice to advance sustainable poverty eradication. It is facilitated by The SEEP Network through the Value Initiative.

Website: edexchange.seepnetwork.org

Food Security and Nutrition (FSN) Forum

The FSN Forum is a global community of FSN practitioners. It bridges the knowledge divide among the different communities involved in FSN policies and strategies - such as academics, researchers and development practitioners - to improve cooperation and impacts; members in many countries across the world - s five continents.

Website: <http://km.fao.org/fsn/>

Global Development Matters

Global Development Matters is designed to engage U.S. citizens and leaders in examining how rich world policies affect global poverty reduction. There is an Election '08 blog.

Website: www.globaldevelopmentmatters.org

GTZ-Communities Sustainable Economic Development

The GTZ-Communities Sustainable Economic Development are open to all practitioners, counterparts, research institutions, donors and interested consultants worldwide facilitating an inter agency exchange of experiences and best practices. This weekly updated website provides you with recent news and lessons learned from GTZ as well as from other development agencies and research institutions in the field of economic development. Its core is a comprehensive database. Participation in this open community is free of charge. However, registration is necessary.

Website: [Africa](#) | [Middle East and North Africa](#) | [Asia](#)

LED knowledge

This website is an online space for sharing the experiences and resources of people and organizations supporting local economic development processes at the local level. LED Knowledge is the result of a joint effort of the ILO-LED programme team based in Geneva, and the ILO training arm, the International Training Centre, based in Turin, Italy.

Website: www.ledknowledge.org

Network of Networks Impact Evaluation Initiative (Nonie)

Nonie is a network of networks for impact evaluation comprised of the DAC Evaluation Network, The United Nations Evaluation Group (UNEG), the Evaluation Cooperation Group (ECG), and a fourth network drawn from the regional evaluation associations. Its purpose is to foster a program of impact evaluation activities based on a common understanding of the meaning of impact evaluation and approaches to conducting impact evaluation.

Website: www.worldbank.org/ieg/nonie/

TakingITGlobal.org

TakingITGlobal.org is an online community that connects youth to find inspiration, access information, get involved, and take action in their local and global communities.

Website: profiles.takingitglobal.org

XING Group Microfinance Industry

In this new XING Group, microfinance professionals from all over the globe link and discuss topics of interest. Use this forum to discuss financial technology, find employment, identify training opportunities and events, and share knowledge resources with fellow members of the microfinance industry. XING is an online networking tool to manage all personal contacts and to find interesting new business contacts. It's amazing how quickly it facilitates contact with key people.

Website: www.xing.com/

AfDevinfo - African Development Information Service

AfDevinfo tracks the mechanics of political and economic development across Sub Saharan Africa. They draw together a diverse range of publicly available data and present it as an accessible and ever expanding online database.

Website: www.afdevinfo.com

Growing Inclusive Markets (GIM)

The Growing Inclusive Markets Initiative has created a set of data, information and analytical products that will increase understanding of the markets of the poor, including existing opportunities and challenges.

Website: www.growinginclusivemarkets.org

Fellowship Opportunities

Africa Entrepreneurship Platform

This ground breaking initiative is created as a forum to showcase innovative ideas and businesses from Africa that have the ability to scale internationally driving job creation and sustainable economic development between Africa and the Americas.

Website: www.sacca.biz

Piramal Foundation in India

Has established a US \$25,000 prize for ideas that help advance full access to effective public health care in India. The Piramal Prize is a \$25,000 Social Entrepreneurship Competition focused on democratizing health care in India that seeks to encourage and support bold entrepreneurial ideas which can profoundly impact access to higher standards of health for India's rural and marginalized urban communities. The award recognizes high-impact, scalable business models and innovative solutions that directly or indirectly address India's health-care crisis.

Website: www.piramalprize.org/

The Pioneers of Prosperity Grant and Award

This competition is a partnership between the OTF Group and the John F. Templeton Foundation of the United States, and promotes companies in East Africa by identifying local role models that act as examples of sustainable businesses in their country/region. It is open to businesses from Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Burundi and Rwanda.

Website: pioneersofprosperity.org

African Writers Fund

Together with the Ford Foundation, the Fund supports the work of independent creative writers living on the continent. The Fund recognizes the vital role that poets and novelists play in Africa by anticipating and reflecting the cultural, economic and political forces that continuously shape and reshape societies.

Website: www.trustafrica.org

Joint NAM S&T Centre - ICCS Fellowship Programme

Centre for Science and Technology of the Non-Aligned and Other Developing Countries (NAM S&T Centre) and International Center for Chemical Sciences (ICCS), (H.E.J. Research Institute of Chemistry and Dr. Panjwani Center for Molecular Medicine and Drug Research), University of Karachi, Karachi, Pakistan.

Email: namstct@vsnl.com

Website: www.scidev.net

Development Executive Group Devex Networking Website

Over 90,000 global experts can network and connect and learn about more than 47,000 registered projects.

Website: www.devex.org

Oxford Said Business School Youth Business Development Competition

Open to youth between 16 and 21 across the world, the competition is run by students at Oxford University to promote social enterprise. A prize fund of Â£2,000 in seed capital is up for grabs. It calls itself the ↑ world↓ s first global youth development competition↓ .

Website: [More Information](#)

US\$250,000 for Best Lab Design

AMD and Architecture for Humanity have announced a prize of \$250,000 for the best design for a computer lab that can be adapted and implemented in third-world countries.

Website: www.openarchitecturenetwork.org

PhD Plant Breeding Scholarships at the University of Ghana

The [University of Ghana](#) has been awarded a project support grant by the [Alliance for a Green Revolution](#) in Africa (a joint venture between the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the Rockefeller Foundation, for the establishment of a West African Centre for Crop Improvement (WACCI). This is available to scientists working at NARIs, universities and international centres in West Africa. Women scientists are especially encouraged to apply for a fellowship under this programme.

Website: www.acci.org.za

Institute of Social Studies in The Hague

A collaboration between 25 international think tanks in international development, www.focuss.info is a search engine for indexing and social book marking online resources in international development.

Website: <http://focuss.info/>

Genesis: India↓ s Premier Social Entrepreneurship Competition

A social entrepreneurship competition aiming to bring together social entrepreneurs, students, NGOs, innovators, incubators, corporations and financiers and encourage them to come up with innovative ideas which are socially relevant and feasible.

Website: <http://genesis.iitm.ac.in>

Echoing Green: Social Entrepreneurs Fund

They are looking for social entrepreneurs developing new solutions to social problems. They are accepting applications for their 2008 fellowships (two-year funding of up to US \$90,000 for 20 entrepreneurs.

Website: www.echoinggreen.org

Funding

UNESCO: International Centre for South-South Co-operation in Science, Technology and Innovation

The International Centre for South-South Co-operation in Science, Technology and Innovation was inaugurated in Kuala Lumpur in May 2008. The centre functions under the auspices of UNESCO. It facilitates the integration of a developmental approach into national science and technology and innovation policies, and provides policy advice. In parallel to organizing capacity-building and the exchange of experience and best practices, the centre conducts research and tackles specific problems in science, technology and innovation policy-making in developing countries.

Website: www.unesco.org

Funding - Google.org

While SMEs in rich countries represent half of GDP, they are largely absent from the formal economies of developing countries. Today, there are trillions of investment dollars chasing returns !! and SMEs are a potentially high impact, high return investment. However, only a trickle of this capital currently reaches SMEs in developing countries. Our goal is to increase this flow.

Website: www.google.org

Challenge InnoCentive

A challenge to the world's inventors to find solutions to real scientific and technological problems affecting the poor and vulnerable.

Website: <http://www.innocentive.com>

Global Social Benefit Incubator: A US \$20,000 Bottom of the Pyramid Scholarship

Offered by Santa Clara University's Global Social Benefit Incubator, it selects 15 to 20 enterprises from developing countries and provides an eight-month mentoring process. This ends with a 10-day process in Santa Clara, where entrepreneurs work with their mentors.

Website: <http://www.socialedge.org>

Job Opportunities

- [Africa Recruit Job Compendium](#)
- [Africa Union](#)
- [CARE](#)
- [Christian Children's Fund](#)
- [ECOWAS](#)
- [International Crisis Group](#)
- [International Medical Corps](#)
- [International Rescue Committee](#)
- [Internews](#)
- [IREX](#)
- [Organization for International Migration](#)
- [Oxfam](#)
- [Relief Web Job Compendium \(UN OCHA\) \(1\)](#)
- [Relief Web Job Compendium \(UN OCHA\) \(2\)](#)
- [Save the Children](#)
- [The Development Executive Group job compendium](#)
- [Trust Africa](#)
- [UN Jobs](#)
- [UNDP](#)
- [UNESCO](#)
- [UNICEF](#)
- [World Bank](#)
- [World Wildlife Fund \(Cameroon\)](#)



Please feel free to send your comments, feedback and/or suggestions to Cosmas Gitta [cosmas.gitta@undp.org] Chief, Division for Policy, Special Unit for South-South Cooperation